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**AUG 13 2004**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Chiarello et al. : DECISION ON PETITION  
Application No. 09/894,423 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)  
Filed: 28 June, 2001 :  
Atty Docket No. SYNGEN-06067 :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 22 December, 2003, which is treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after 29 November, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

(1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;

(2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The present pending application was filed on 28 June, 2001, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after 29 November, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application, for which the claim for benefit of priority is sought.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

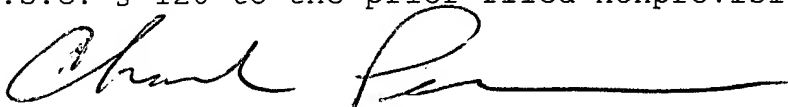
A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed nonprovisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Douglas I. Wood at 703-308-6918.

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<sup>1</sup> See 35 U.S.C. § 120.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 1636 for appropriate action on the amendment and RCE filed on 22 December, 2003, including consideration by the examiner of applicants' entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Pearson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles A. Pearson  
Director, Office of Petitions

**ATTACHMENT:**      Corrected Filing Receipt